

EPISODE OUTLINE - WASHOUT

involve the
kids more
centrally

Principal Characters: Supporting Characters: Extras:
All Felix 2 passengers
J.B. King

SOCIAL THEME: Learning cooperation

STATION EVENT: Flooding on the tracks puts a train in danger

THOMAS EPISODES: "Bertie's Chase" and "Percy's Promise"

PUPPET SONG: Cumberland Gap

PICTURE MACHINE SONG: None

ACQUIRED FOOTAGE: TBD

CREATIVE PLAY: Things to ^{do} go on a rainy day

BILLY STORY: Having respect for ~~the~~ nature

RESOLUTION: Learning the value of teamwork

STORY OUTLINE: When the program opens, lightening has already knocked out the power lines, and the show opens in total darkness. Stacy lights a kerosene lamp, and we see she is alone in the station. Phone rings, and it's J.B. King. By Stacy's responses, we learn that power is flickering on and off all down the line. J.B. King tells her that he's doing everything to keep the railroad open, the trains are running slower, and that he will be around later to check up on her.

The lights flicker back on.

Mr. Conductor appears in a slicker. He's pulling a regular sized flashlight on two empty spools of thread. Mr. Conductor tells Stacy he's brought her the light just in case she needs it. Stacy thanks him, and takes the flashlight.

He is about to pop off and find some candles, when Stacy asks if he has an umbrella. He doesn't, and so Stacy returns the favor by finding a little cocktail umbrella and giving it to him. He doffs his slicker hat and vanishes.

Billy enters. He's been out inspecting the tracks. He relates that the tracks are holding up, but if it keeps raining there could be trouble.

Dan and Kara arrive. They had been walking over when the storm hit, and being closer to Shining Time than home, they rushed to the station. They are both edgy, but won't admit they are afraid of the lightening and thunder--although they ask if lightening has ever hit the station, etc. And so while they're fearful of the storm, they are also intrigued by the forces of nature.

Schemer and Vickie enter. Schemer has an arm full of umbrellas that he has been trying to sell. Opening one, Stacy discovers it is full of holes. Vickie, it turns out, is not wearing her rain coat, and she's drenched. To dry her off, Billy gives her a colorful Native blanket from his office.

Felix arrives with two drenched passengers who just make it to their train. He had come across them walking to the station, and offered to give them a lift for free, and won't accept their money. Upon hearing this, Schemer is shocked and he tries to collect something from them until Stacy puts a stop to it. A bad storm is a time for people to help each other, to pull together and cooperate--not a time to try to take advantage of people. Although her comments are directed to Schemer, the kids take what she says to heart.

Kids go to Billy's office, while Schemer retreats to the arcade. Mr. Conductor appears and the kids recap the scene with Felix, Stacy and Schemer. This reminds Mr. Conductor of a TTE story: Bertie's Chase.

Mr. Conductor summarizes the story as being a lesson about pulling together to help one another in a difficult situation.

After the TTE story, Billy senses the kids are still uneasy about the storm. They ask if he's afraid of the storm. With live action thunder storm footage over, he explains how nature is a friend of humankind, not an enemy. But nature must be respected and not abused.

The lights flicker out again. Then, as "something to do on a rainy day," Stacy engages the kids in creative play: using the flashlight Mr. Conductor brought her, they play shadow games until the lights come on again.

At the tail end of the creative play, Schemer approaches. Schemer claims to have no fear, and belittles the kids for being worried about a few drops of rain. To prove his point, he goes over to the window behind Stacy's desk and opens it. Water sprays across his face, and at the same time there is a huge thunderclap. Now it's Schemer who's afraid, and he retreats from the window in fear.

Stacy takes the matter in hand, and plays a puppet song to sooth the kids and Schemer. Puppet song: Cumberland Gap.

Over the song, we see scenes of the kids comforting a frightened Schemer; while we also see Stacy canceling all the trains on the schedule board, talking earnestly on the phone etc.

At the end of the puppet song, J.B. King arrives. He explains how dire the situation is, and that he is going on one last inspection of the line to assess the damage. His train will be heading north, first, to Lucky Lake, then back south past Shining Time to Waddly. Before leaving, he notes the pretty blanket that's back on Vickie's shoulders.

Blankets were used to keep you warm and to help make smoke signals

Confidentially, to Stacy, J.B. King expresses some concern about Mr. Conductor's safety--Mr. Conductor could easily be washed away in a puddle if he's not careful. Stacy assures him that Mr. Conductor is fine. J.B. King exits.

Stacy decides to leave the kids with Billy and goes out to inspect the line one more time. Mr. Conductor appears. The kids ask if there are storms like this on the Island of Sodor. This sparks the TTE story: Percy's Promise.

The lesson of the story, summarized by Mr. Conductor, echoes the earlier one--in times of trouble, everyone must pitch in. A further note would be that all rainstorms, no matter how bad, eventually pass.

Stacy returns to the station with some startling news: the bridge up the line has been washed out by the storm. Picking up the phone, she discovers the phones are down, and they have no way of communicating with the outside world. Making matters worse, J.B King's return train is due to come rushing through the station in a matter of minutes. Now they must find a way to flag down the train. But how? All the characters look to Stacy for the solution.

Stacy realizes the emergency will need a creative solution, and seeing the blanket around Vickie's shoulders gets the idea of using it as a flag for the onrushing engine. When the kids ask how the engineer will see the blanket in the dark storm, Stacy says they will use the use the storm to help them: the lightening will light up the blanket, and the wind will blow it.

Perhaps Vickie could contribute to the solution?

Stacy decides that she will stand on one side, and Billy on the other side, to stretch the blanket across the tracks. The kids, Mr. Conductor, and even Schemer, are worried for their safety as they rush out of the station to the sound of the approaching whistle.

When they exit, there is a huge thunderclap and flash of lightening, and the lights go out. Our attention is drawn to the window in back of the station, where we can see the train come rushing through. The lights go speeding by, and for a moment it

??

seems like the train is going to go rushing through. But then we hear the sound of breaks, and the lights gradually slow down to a jerking stop outside the window.

Stacy, Billy and J.B. King come into the station. J.B. King, the kids and Billy all realize that Stacy is a hero for having saved the train. The lights come back on, and the thunderstorm grows more distant, as the natural sunshine outside the windows returns.

Schemer notes that it's stopped raining, throws open the window, takes a deep breath while also taking partial credit for saving the train. But Mr. Conductor is out in the window box, in a small inflatable boat. He's bailing out water in the window box with a bucket. Not seeing Schemer, and Schemer not seeing him, Mr. Conductor tosses another bucket of water which lands right on Schemer's face. With an ironic wink, Billy closes the show by punning on Schemer being "all washed up", a "washout"; or "all wet", etc.

Lightning implausible

Scheme giving idea
(wet blanket)
doesn't work
well

Perhaps Vicki could ^{from Betty} remember idea of
how blanket is used
to make smoke signals
and she contributes
part of the idea

This would involve kids
more centrally

WASHOUT

SHINING TIME STATION

By Jill Golick

June 21, 1991
Draft 1

SCENE 1
(MAIN SET)

(WE OPEN IN TOTAL BLACK)

(SFX: CLAP OF THUNDER)

(SFX: THE SOUND OF A WOODEN SAFETY MATCH SCRATCHING THE ROUGH SIDE OF IT'S BOX)

(IN THE FIRST FLARE OF SULFUR, WE SEE STACY AT THE TICKET BOOTH. SHE LIGHTS A KEROSENE LAMP, ADJUSTS THE WICK AND REPLACES THE GLASS)

(SFX: THE TELEPHONE RINGS)

STACY:

At least the storm hasn't knocked out the phone.

(ANSWERING)

Shining Time Station.
Stacy Jones
speaking...Mr. King. Yes
Sir, the storm has just
hit Shining Time Station.
And the power is out...
All Down the line? And
the trains? ..Running,
but late. I'm sure our
passengers will
understand - in this
weather... Yes Sir, Mr.
King, he's checking the
tracks right now...
Absolutely, Mr. King,
safety first... Well,
then, I'll see you when
you get here, Mr. King.
Goodbye Sir.

(STACY HANGS UP)

(THE LIGHTS FLICKER BACK ON)

STACY CONTD:

Well, that's a good sign.

SCENE 1 CONTD

(SHE TAKES A DEEP BREATH TO BLOW OUT THE LAMP.)

(MR. C POPS IN WEARING A YELLOW RAIN SLICKER. HE IS HOLDING A STRING IN HIS HAND. WHATEVER IS AT THE END OF THE STRING IS HIDDEN BY THE BENCH)

MR. C:

Make a wish.

(STACY PAUSES BEFORE BLOWING OUT THE FLAME TO THINK OF A WISH.)

MR. C:

Well?... What did you wish for?

STACY:

If I tell, it won't come true.

MR. C:

Nonsense. If you keep your wishes a secret, no one can help you make them come true.

STACY:

(AFTER CONSIDERING THIS FOR A MOMENT)

I wished that we get through this storm safely.

MR. C:

Now there's something we can work on together. Here's a start.

(MR. C TUGS ON THE ROPE IN HIS HAND. A FLASHLIGHT RESTING ON A PAIR OF EMPTY SPOOLS OF THREAD, ROLLS FORWARD)

SCENE 1 CONTD

MR. C CONTD:

A flashlight. I hope we
won't need it.

(STACY TAKES THE FLASHLIGHT AND
TESTS IT BY TURNING IT ON)

MR. C CONTD:

Batteries included.

STACY:

Perfect. But if the
electricity goes out
again, it's going to take
more than this to keep
the station lit.

MR C:

I'd better look for some
candles.

STACY:

Thank you Mr Conductor.
But where is your
umbrella?

MR C:

I'm not fond of
umbrellas, Stacy. They're
such enormous things. I
try to make do with my
raincoat.

STACY:

Enormous? Oh, I bet
you'd like one if it was
the right size.

(SHE REACHES INTO HER POCKET AND
PULLS OUT A LITTLE COCKTAIL
PARASOL)

SCENE 1 CONTD

STACY CONTD:

Like this one. I got in a glass of lemonade, along with a cherry and a slice of orange. I ate the fruit, but saved the umbrella for you.

MR C:

How thoughtful of you. Although, I would have liked a bit of fruit as well.

(MR. C ACCEPTS THE UMBRELLA, TIPS HIS RAIN HAT AND DISAPPEARS)

(SPFX: MR. C POPS OUT)

(BILLY ENTERS IN RAIN GEAR)

STACY:

How are the tracks holding up?

(BILLY REMOVES HIS JACKET AND SHAKES OFF THE WATER)

BILLY:

They're holding.

STACY:

Good.

BILLY:

But Maybe not for long. Too much rain and there could be trouble.

STACY:

Hopefully the storm will blow over.

SCENE 1 CONTD

BILLY:

By the looks of the clouds...

(SFX: THUNDER INTERRUPTS)

BILLY CONTD:

... it's going to get worse before it gets better.

STACY:

The we'll have to keep a close eye on things, because, J.B. King says the trains will keep running.

BILLY:

What can I do to help?

STACY:

How about checking the windows and doors to make sure that everything is shut tight? I better check the schedule board.

(BILLY EXITS. STACY IS ADJUSTING THE TIMETABLE AS DAN AND KARA ENTER. THEIR RAINCOATS ARE DRIPPING WET.)

DAN:

It's pouring out there Stacy.

STACY:

I noticed. And I was sure you two would have the sense to stay home in this weather.

SCENE 1 CONTD

KARA:

It didn't start raining
until we were nearly here.

DAN:

The sky got black so
suddenly... We were
closer to the station
than home. So we came
here.

(SFX: A CLAP OF THUNDER)

DAN CONTD:

Yikes.

STACY:

My faith in your good
senses is restored.

(LIGHTENING FLASHES OUTSIDE THE
WINDOW. BRIEFLY BRIGHTENING THE
ROOM)

KARA:

I'm glad we're not still
out there.

DAN:

You're afraid of
lightening.

KARA:

Not anymore. I used to
be. I hated thunderstorms
when I was little.

DAN:

Me, too. The noise.

(SFX: CRACK OF LIGHTENING)

(DAN LOOKS A LITTLE NERVOUS. KARA
SPEAKS AS TO REASSURE HERSELF)

SCENE 1 CONTD

KARA:

But now I know that I'm
safe inside. Even if it
is thundering and
lightening out there.
Right Stacy?

STACY:

Right.

(BILLY ENTERS)

DAN:

And lightning won't hit
the station. Will it?

BILLY:

This is one of the
greatest lightening proof
buildings of all time -
and also shut up tight
against the rain.
Anything else you want me
to take care of Stacy?

STACY:

(AFTER A MOMENTS THOUGHT)

Nothing right now.

(SCHEMER ENTERS CARRYING AN ARMLEAD
OF UMBRELLAS)

SCHEMER:

Rain, rain come and stay,
so Schemer can make a
fortune selling
umbrellas. Hey kids,
wanna buy an umbrella?

KARA:

No thanks Schemer.

SCENE 1 CONTD

SCHEMER:

What about you, Miss Jones? Perfect weather for it.

STACY:

No thank you Schemer. I'm equipped for the weather.

SCHEMER:

^{I've}
But you ^{got} to admit this is one brilliant money making plan. Selling umbrellas in a rainstorm is a great way to cash in on other peoples troubles.

(STACY SHAKES HER HEAD, BUT CONTINUES WITH HER WORK)

(VICKIE ENTERS, DRENCHED AND CARRYING A CLOSED UMBRELLA.)

SCHEMER:

Here comes a satisfied customer now.

VICKIE:

I want my money back.

STACY:

Vickie, you're soaked. Why didn't you open your umbrella?

VICKIE:

I did.

(VICKIE OPENS THE UMBRELLA TO DEMONSTRATE - IT IS FULL OF HOLES.)

(ON SEEING VICKIE, BILLY EXITS TO HIS OFFICE)

SCENE 1 CONTD

(STACY DOES A SLOW BURN. SHE TAKES ANOTHER OF SCHEMER'S UMBRELLAS AND OPENS IT. IT IS ALSO FULL OF HOLES. SHE GRABS A THIRD. IT TOO, IS FILLED WITH HOLES.)

SCHEMER:

How do you think I can sell them so cheap?

STACY:

I wish I could say I'm surprised at you Schemer.

(STACY TURNS AWAY WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT. SCHEMER IS EFFECTED BY THIS) *A*

SCHEMER:

It's her own fault. She should have worn a raincoat.

VICKIE:

I forgot it.

(BILLY ENTERS FROM THE WORKSHOP CARRYING A COLORFUL NATIVE BLANKET. HE DRAPES IT ON VICKIE'S SHOULDERS.)

BILLY:

This will warm you up.

VICKIE:

Thanks Billy.

STACY:

(POINTING IN SCHEMER'S DIRECTION.)

It's a good thing someone around here is helpful.

(THE CHILDREN SIT DOWN ON A BENCH AND WATCH THE STORM THROUGH THE WINDOW.)

SCENE 1 CONTD

FELIX (OFF)

Walk this way.

(FELIX USHERS IN TWO PASSENGERS.
THEY ARE SOAKED)

(BILLY EXITS TO WORKSHOP)

PASSENGER 1:

Thank you so much for
getting us here. I only
hope we didn't miss our
train.

STACY:

The express to Browntown?

(THE PASSENGERS NOD WETLY)

You'll be glad to hear
it's running a little
late because of the
storm. It's just coming
in now.

PASSENGER 2:

(TO FELIX)

How much do we owe you?

FELIX:

Nothing.

(SCHEMER'S JAW DROPS)

SCHEMER:

He doesn't mean that.

PASSENGER 1:

We'd still be out there
in the pouring rain if
you hadn't come along.

SCENE 1 CONTD

PASSENGER 2:

I insist. You rescued us from the storm and went out of your way to bring us here.

(THE PASSENGER HOLDS OUT A BILL)

FELIX:

Your thanks is enough. I don't want your money.

SCHEMER:

I do.

(THE PASSENGERS START WALKING TOWARD THE EXIT TO THE PLATFORM.
SCHEMER FOLLOWS.)

SCHEMER:

How about an umbrella?

STACY:

(STERNLY)

Schemer!

(SCHEMER STOPS DEAD IN HIS TRACKS.
THE PASSENGERS CONTINUE TO THE ARCH AND EXIT)

STACY CONTD:

I'd like a word with you.

(SCHEMER APPROACHES STACY UNCERTAINLY)

SCHEMER:

You've changed your mind about the umbrella?

STACY:

I cannot believe that even you would attempt to profit from the misfortune of others.

SCENE 1 CONTD

SCHEMER:

But this is the best time
to profit. That's my
motto: prices go up when
the rain falls down.
Catchy, isn't it?

STACY:

Schemer, this is no time
for your nonsense. People
getting drenched, maybe
missing trains. With all
this thunder and
lightening, it could even
get dangerous. I think
we'll get through safe
and sound. But only if we
pull together and
cooperate.

(THE CHILDREN ARE LISTENING TO THIS
INTENTLY)

STACY CONTD:

Times like these, we need
to know we can count on
one another's help. I can
count on Felix and Billy.
But can I count on you?

SCHEMER:

Sure. If you'll go out to
the store room and make
sure my cheese doodles
are dry.

STACY:

I have more important
things to take care of.

SCHEMER:

All this talk about
helping each other, but
whose helping me?

SCENE 1 CONTD

STACY:

We have to worry about he
safety of the passengers
first. Not Cheese
doodles.

SCHEMER:

Fine. I'll do it myself.
You talk about
cooperation. But what
have you done for me
lately?

FELIX:

I'm off. Anyone need a
lift?

(CHILDREN SHAKE THEIR HEADS)

DAN:

I'll stay and help aunt
Stacy.

VICKIE:

Me too.

FELIX:

Good bye Stacy.

STACY:

You be careful out there
Felix.

FELIX:

You too.

(TO HIMSELF AS HE EXITS)

The rain in Spain falls
mainly on the plain...By
jove, I think I've got
it.

(SFX: HOWL OF WIND)

SCENE 1 CONTD

STACY:

Listen to that wind. Oh no! I forgot to bring in the flag.

(STAY MOVES TOWARD THE EXIT,
PUTTING ON JACKET)

(DAN STARTS TO FOLLOW)

STAY CONTD:

You stay inside where it's safe and dry.

(STACY EXITS)

(SFX: CRACK OF THUNDER)

(THE CHILDREN EXCHANGE GLANCES)

KARA:

I bet Billy needs help.

(THE CHILDREN, VICKIE STILL WRAPPED IN BLANKET, RUN INTO BILLY'S WORKSHOP AS A BOLT OF LIGHTENING ILLUMINATES THE WINDOW)

SCENE 2
(INT WORKSHOP)

(BILLY IS FILLING THE KEROSENE LAMP, AS THE CHILDREN ENTER)

BILLY:

Mother nature is putting on quite a show.

(MR C APPEARS WITH AN ARM LOAD OF CANDLES, WHICH HE DROPS ON BILLY'S DESK)

MR. C:

It's a good thing we have indoor seats for it. I'd hate to be stranded out there in this.

VICKIE:

Some passengers were stranded. They were lucky Felix came along in his bus.

KARA:

If he hadn't they would have missed their train.

MR C:

Just like the time Bertie saved the day.

DAN:

When was that?

MR C:

I must have told you about Bertie's chase?

(THE CHILDREN SHAKE THEIR HEADS)

Then I will right now.

(MR C BLOWS HIS WHISTLE)

SPFX: THOMAS INTRO FIX

SCENE 3

(VT: TTE "BERTIE'S CHASE")

SCENE 4
(INT WORKSHOP)

DAN:

Bertie saved the day.

MR C:

With help. In the end,
everyone worked together.
The surest way to get out
of a sticky situation is to do it
together.

(SFX: THUNDER)

KARA:

I'm glad we're together
in this one.

DAN:

I think I'd like it
better if we weren't in
it at all.

VICKIE:

Rotten weather.

BILLY:

To me, there's only one
kind of weather -- and
it's always good. Without
the rains, how would the
earth get washed? They
may be frightening, but
even thunderstorms are
part of the web of
nature.

— all weather is good weather

cycle cycle

SCENE 5

(ACQUIRED FOOTAGE)

BILLY: (V.O)

They're part of the never ending circle called the water cycle. Earth's waters are always moving, round and round, up and down. The sun beating down on oceans and big lakes heats up the water. It gets so hot, it becomes invisible and very light. So light, that the water floats up high into the sky. It's colder up there and the water turns into clouds. When the clouds get full and the temperature is just right, the water falls back down to earth. As snow or hail or sleet or rain. Some kinds of clouds make a big show. There's lightening, thunder, strong winds. And lots of rain. The rainwater seeps into the soil carrying food to the roots of trees, flowers and plants. The rain falls into rivers and streams, where animals and people can drink and wash and play. And the streams and rivers carry the water back to the lakes and oceans to get hot again and rise up and fall down. Again and Again.

(END OF ACQUIRED FOOTAGE)

SCENE 6
(INT WORKSHOP)

BILLY CONTD:

It's true, thunderstorms
can be scary, but they
are just one of nature's
ways of bringing us rain.

(SFX: THUNDER)

DAN:

Thanks nature...

(A FLASH OF LIGHTENING IS SEEN)

...I think.

(THE LIGHTS GO OUT)

VICKIE:

Oh. no.

(MR C STARTS TO SPARKLE)

KARA:

What's that?

MR C:

It's not Tinkerbell.

DAN:

It's Mr Conductor.

BILLY:

Would you flicker over
here so I can find the
matches?

MR C:

I'll be there in a flash.

(MR C'S FLICKER APPEARS NEAR THE
DESK)

SCENE 6 CONTD

MR C:

They love me for my
sparkling personality.

(A FLASHLIGHT BEAM APPEARS IN THE
DOORWAY)

STACY:

Is everyone all right?

(JUST NOW BILLY GETS THE LAMP LIT.
IN IT'S GLOW WE SEE THAT THE
CHILDREN ARE HUDDLED TOGETHER
NERVOUSLY)

KARA:

Much better now.

STACY:

Well then come out here.
Because I have a perfect
rainy day activity for
you.

SCENE 7
(MAIN SET)

(STACY HAS THE FLASHLIGHT BALANCED ON THE TICKET BOOTH SO THE BEAM IS PROJECTED ON A WALL. OTHERWISE IT IS DARK)

VICKIE:

Can't we have some light out here?

STACY:

Shh. Don't scare the bunny.

(ANGLE ON WALL WHERE STACY HAS CAST THE SHADOW OF A RABBIT WITH HER HANDS)

VICKIE:

A rabbit. How'd you do that?

STACY:

It's a shadow picture - the shadow of my hands. COMe put your hands in front of the light and see.

(THE KIDS WAVE, WIGGLE THEIR FINGERS, ETC. AND WATCH THE SHADOW ON THE WALL)

KIDS:

(AD LIB)

Neat. Wow. This is cool ETC.

KARA:

Can you show me how to make a rabbit?

SCENE 7 CONTD

STACY:

Let's start with something easier. Make a fist.. Good. Now hold down pointer and middle finger, but let your ring finger and your pinky go straight. That's the beak.

DAN:

(LOOKING AT HIS FINGERS)

This isn't easy.

STACY:

Keep trying.

DAN:

Look. I can make the beak open and close. Tweet Tweet.

VICKIE:

Show us another one Stacy.

STACY:

How about an elephant? You need both hands. Cup your right hand and put it on top of your left, like this. Now stick your left fingers straight down to make the trunk. And point your left thumb forward to make a tusk.

(MR C SPARKLES IN)

MR C:

(DEEP 'ELEPHANT' VOICE)

Anyone got some peanuts?

SCENE 7 CONTD

DAN:

Look at my bird, Mr
Conductor.

STACY:

Want to try a swan
Vickie? Put your right
arm up like this... and
now bend you first finger
a little for the eye.
Good. Tuck in your thumb
so it doesn't show.
Right. Okay, now you need
a wing. Put your hand
here against the top of
your arm.

VICKIE:

Wow.

(ANGLE ON THE SWAN SHADOW ON THE
WALL. A PAIR OF BUNNY EARS APPEAR
OVER ITS HEAD - MADE BY THE SHADOW
OF TWO FINGERS)

SCHEMER:

Ha ha. Now that's a real
shadow picture.

KARA:

(ANNOYED)

Schemer!

SCHEMER:

Watch this one.

(SCHEMER DANCES AROUND IN FRONT OF
THE LIGHT WITH HIS HANDS AT HIS
TEMPLES, FINGERS WAVING)

SCHEMER CONTD:

A moose.

SCENE 7 CONTD

DAN:

Show us another one
Stacy.

STACY:

Okay. Here's an easy one,
if you have a plate.

(WITH HER RIGHT HAND, STACY RAISES
TWO FINGERS AND REACHING FORWARD
WITH HER RING AND PINKY FINGERS TO
TOUCH HER THUMB. SHE HOLDS THE
PLATE WITH HER LEFT HAND OVER HER
EXTENDED RIGHT FOREARM)

VICKIE:

A snail.

(SCHEMER GRABS THE FLASHLIGHT AND
TURNS IT OFF)

SCHEMER:

A snail? Where?

KARA:

Turn that back on.

SCHEMER:

Scared of the dark,
kiddies?

DAN:

Come on. We were having
fun.

SCHEMER:

Here comes the boogey
man...ooooeee.

VICKIE:

Just turn the light on.

SCENE 7 CONTD

SCHEMER:

You're a bunch of
chickens. Bawk, Bawk,
baw....

(MR. C TWINKLES ONTO STACY'S DESK,
KNOCKING OVER A MUG OF PENCILS
WHICH SCATTER NOISILY ACROSS THE
FLOOR)

SCHEMER CONTD:

Yikes! What was that?

DAN:

(INNOCENTLY)

What was what, Schemer?

SCHEMER:

(FLICKING THE FLASHLIGHT BACK ON AND
SHINING IT INTO THE CORNERS)

Ghosts!

(SCHEMER ACCIDENTALLY KICKS ONE OF
THE PENCILS AND SEND IT RATTLING,
STARTLING HIMSELF AGAIN)

KARA:

Now who's scared?

SCHEMER:

I tell you this place is
haunted.

DAN:

Bawk, bawk ,bawk...

SCHEMER:

Well at least I'm not
scared of a little
thunderstorm.

SCENE 7 CONTD

VICKIE:

You are so.

SCHEMER:

Oh yeah? Watch this.

(SCHEMER RUSHES TO THE WINDOW AND
THROWS IT OPEN)

SCHEMER CONTD:

Let's see one of you kids
do this. Huh?

(WATER SPRAYS ACROSS HIS FACE)

(SFX: HUGE CLAP OF THUNDER)

(SCHEMER JUMPS BACK SHAKEN. HE
RETREATS IN FEAR.)

(STACY STRIDES OVER TO THE WINDOW
AND CLOSES IT.)

STACY:

I think it's time for a
little change of pace.
Here Dan, play a song on
the juke box.

(STACY HANDS DAN A NICKEL)

VICKIE:

But the powers out,
Stacy.

KARA:

It won't work, will it?

STACY:

We'll see won't we?

(AS DAN CROSSES TO THE ARCADE)

STACY CONTD:

Play something soothing
Dan.

(DAN DROPS A COIN INTO THE SLOT)

SCENE 8
(JUKE BOX)

(INSIDE THE JUKE BOX, THE NICKEL ROLLS DOWN THE CHUTE.)

DIDI:

Show time.

TEX:

Let's play something loud and fast.

(TEX STARTS TO PLAY)

TITO:

I'm in the mood for mood music.

(TITO PLAYS TOO, BUT SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM TEX. IT SOUNDS AWFUL)

REX:

I'm not playing.

DIDI:

Hold it! Cut!

(THEY STOP PLAYING)

REX:

That sounded awful.

DIDI:

That sounded like a band that can't cooperate. But, when we work together...

TITO:

When we work together, it's magic, baby...

REX:

Let's do it.

SCENE 8 CONTD

DIDI:

Cumberland Gap?

ALL:

All right, Yeah, etc...

(THE BAND PLAYS CUMBERLAND GAP)

SCENE 9
(MAIN SET)

(AS THE BAND PLAYS WE SEE A MONTAGE: STACY TALKS ON THE PHONE. THE LIGHTS COME BACK ON, TO EVERYONE'S RELIEF. LIGHTENING FLASHES IN THE WINDOW. SCHEMER COWERS AND THE KIDS PAT HIS HEAD REASURRINGLY. STACY CANCELS TRAINS ON THE SCHEDULE BOARD, TALKS ON THE PHONE, CANCELS MORE TRAINS. MORE LIGHTENING FLASHES. SCHEMER SHIVERS NERVOUSLY. VICKIE TAKES THE BLANKET OFF HER OWN SHOULDERS AND DRAPES IT OVER HIS. SCHEMER ACCEPTS THE GESTURE WITH SOMETHING THAT MIGHT PASS FOR APPRECIATION.)

(J.B. KING ENTERS)

(SCHEMER PUSHES AWAY THE KIDS AND RUSHES TO GREET J.B.)

SCHEMER:

Mr. J.B. King. Here to superintend the station in this time of crisis? Well, as you can see, I have the situation under control.

KING:

My, what a beautiful blanket.

(WORDLESSLY, VICKIE SNATCHES THE BLANKET OFF SCHEMER'S SHOULDERS AND WRAPS IT BACK AROUND HER OWN)

KARA:

Don't listen to him Mr King. Stacy's been taking care of things.

SCHEMER:

Of course Miss Stacy Jones' cooperation has been invaluable.

SCENE 9 CONTD

KING:

Where is Miss Jones?

(STACY STEPS FORWARD)

STACY:

Right here Mr. King. You
got through without
trouble?

KING:

We were lucky. The
situation is bad.
Critical you could say.

STACY:

Oh Mr. King.

KING:

The lightening is getting
worse. The water levels
keep rising. I can't
endanger my passengers.
That's why I've canceled
all trains until further
notice.

STACY:

Safety first.

KING:

Precisely. I'm just
taking a run over the
tracks to check for
damage. That way I can
get a repair crew out as
soon as it stops raining.

STACY:

Oh, Mr. King do you think
that's wise? It's
dangerous out there. You
said so yourself.

SCENE 9 CONTD

KING:

Railway work is teamwork, Stacy. Especially in a crisis. Each of us has a part to play. It's my job as superintendent to keep on top of the damage situation. Whatever the personal risk.

STACY:

Mr King...

KING:

(INTERRUPTING)

Don't try and stop me Stacy. My minds made up.

STACY:

I wasn't going to stop you. I just wanted to know your route.

KING:

Oh, Of course. My train will head north to lucky Lake. Then I'll travel south to Waddly.

STACY:

That will bring you back past Shining Time.

KING:

That's right.

(HE CLEARS HIS THROAT AND GLANCES FROM SIDE TO SIDE)

KING CONTD:

A private word perhaps?

STACY:

Of course.

SCENE 9 CONTD

(THEY STEP AWAY FROM THE OTHERS)

KING:

Frankly Miss Jones, I'm worried about...our little friend.

STACY:

Mr. Conductor?

KING:

(NODDING)

The puddles are getting deep. I'm afraid he'll be washed away.

STACY:

I'm sure he'll be touched by your concern, Sir. He's fine. He's been in and out ever since the storm started. Doing his part like the rest of us.

KING:

I'm relieved to hear that.

(HE STEPS AWAY FROM STACY - THEIR PRIVATE CONFERENCE OVER)

KING CONTD:

Well back to the tracks.

VICKIE:

Be careful Mr. King.

(KING FOCUSES ON VICKIE IN THE BLANKET)

KING:

That style of blanket is certainly popular.

} favorite

You can always tell when something has been woven by hand rather than by machine, it has character.

SCENE 9 CONTD

(KING EXITS TO THE PLATFORM AS
LIGHTENING FLASHES.)

STACY:

Good luck, Mr. King.

DAN:

He sure is brave to go
out there in this
weather.

STACY:

He's doing his part, Dan.
I better check the tracks
one more time. You kids
go keep Billy company.

(STACY PUTS ON HER RAIN COAT. THE
KIDS HEAD FOR BILLY'S OFFICE AS HE
ENTERS FROM IT)

VICKIE:

We were just coming to
see you.

BILLY:

I'm going out to the
store room - to get the
flares. Just in case.

(SEEING THE CHILDREN'S LOOKS)

BILLY CONTD:

Go on in. You won't be
alone.

(THE CHILDREN EXIT TO THE WORKSHOP.
BILLY AND STACY EXIT TO THE
PLATFORM)

SCENE 10
(WORK SHOP)

(THE CHILDREN FIND MR C. HERE)

KARA:

I'm glad you're here Mr Conductor.

VICKIE:

The storm just keeps getting worse.

DAN:

Do you have storms on the Island of Sodor?

MR. C:

As a matter of fact, Percy was once caught in a terrible storm.

VICKIE:

I don't think I want to hear this right now.

MR. C:

That's too bad, because the storm passed.

VICKIE:

It did?

MR C:

And the story ends happily as you'll find out. Some other time.

DAN:

Oh no. Tell it now.

MR C:

No no. You've had enough storms for one day.

SCENE 10 CONTD

VICKIE:

Please?

Mr C:

If you're sure...

(THE KIDS NOD VEHMENTLY)

Right then.

SPFX: THOMAS INTRO FIX

SCENE 11

(VT: TTE "PERCY'S PROMISE"

SCENE 12
(WORKSHOP)

DAN:

It did turn out all right
in the end.

MR C:

It usually does - even in
bad times. So long as
everyone pitches in to
help.

BILLY (OFF):

(ANGRY)

Schemer!

(THE CHILDREN EXCHANGE LOOKS AND
THEN RUN OUT TO THE MAIN SET, TO SEE
WHAT'S GOING ON)

SCENE 13
(MAIN SET)

(BILLY LAYS DOWN A SOGGY CARDBOARD CARTON IN FRONT OF SCHEMER, JUST AS THE CHILDREN ENTER)

BILLY:

Did you take this out of the store room?

SCHEMER:

I had no choice. There wasn't enough room for all the Cheese doodles. Soggy cheese doodles just don't sell.

BILLY:

And soaking wet flares don't work. We need these flares for emergencies. They signal a train that there's danger ahead.

SCHEMER:

I'll bet you think that makes them more important than cheese doodles.

BILLY:

(EXAMINING FLARES)

Everyone of them is soaked, Not a single one of them can be used.

(N.B. - THE STORM IS GETTING WORSE - MORE LIGHTENING AND THUNDER)

(STACY ENTERS AT A RUN. SHE IS VERY EXCITED, BUT COLLECTED IN THIS EMERGENCY)

SCENE 13 CONTD

STACY:

Billy! Listen carefully.
The bridge was washed out
and J.B. King's train is
due through any minute.
You get the flares. I'll
call the dispatch.

(STACY RUSHED TO THE PHONE AND
GRABS THE RECEIVER)

STACY CONTD:

Oh no! It's dead.

BILLY:

(REACHING FOR THE PHONE)

Let me try.

STACY:

We need the flares.

(BILLY HANGS UP THE PHONE)

BILLY:

They were out in the
rain. They're completely
useless.

SCHEMER:

Darn Storm.

STACY:

What? How? Never mind.
There's no time. We've
got to stop that train.

DAN:

If we don't...

KARA:

...and there's no bridge...

SCENE 13 CONTD

SCHEMER:

It's curtains for King.

(ALL STARE AT SCHEMER APPALLED.)

VICKIE:

(ALMOST IN TEARS)

Stacy, do something.

STACY:

We need a signal.

(SHE LOOKS AROUND AT EXPECTANT
FACES)

STACY CONTD:

Something bright that the
engineer will see.

VICKIE:

(BREAKING DOWN)

Poor Mr. King.

(VICKIE PULLS THE BLANKET OVER HER
HEAD.)

(STACY LIFTS THE BLANKET AND STARES
VICKIE IN THE EYE.)

STACY:

Don't give up.

(THE LIGHT BULB GOES ON)

STACY CONTD:

That's it.

(STACY PULLS THE BLANKET OFF OF
VICKIE AND WAVES IT)

STACY CONTD:

They'll see this for sure.

SCENE 13 CONTD

KARA:

But how? It's too dark.

DAN:

You'll have to go back
out into the storm.

VICKIE:

It's too dangerous.

SCHEMER:

You'll get wet.

STACY:

The storm is going to
help us. The blowing wind
will keep the blanket
waving. That'll make it
easier to see. And the
lightening will light it
up.

}?

BILLY:

It's a brilliant plan
Stacy.

STACY:

I'll need you're help
Billy. We'll each stand
on one side of the track
with the blanket spread
between us.

}?

BILLY:

Come on. There's no time
to lose.

VICKIE:

Be careful.

(STACY AND BILLY EXIT AT TOP SPEED
TAKING THE BLANKET)

(SFX: APPROACHING TRAIN WHISTLE)

SCENE 13 CONTD

STACY (OFF):

Hurry.

(THERE IS A VERY BRIGHT FLASH OF LIGHTENING)

(SFX: HUGE CLAP OF LIGHTENING)

(THE LIGHTS GO OUT)

KARA:

Oh no!

(SCHEMER RUSHES TO THE WINDOW TO LOOK OUT, FOLLOWED BY DAN AND KARA)

(MR C. TWINKLES IN THE FOREGROUND NEAR VICKIE)

VICKIE:

(FEARFUL WHISPER ALMOST TO HERSELF)

I hope they'll be okay.

MR C:

Me too Vickie. Me too.

(THE HEAD LIGHTS OF THE TRAIN DRAW OUR ATTENTION TO THE WINDOW. WE CAN SEE THE LIGHTS SPEEDING BY WITHOUT BLOWING)

SCHEMER:

I can't look.

(SFX: TRAIN BREAKS)

(THE TRAIN LIGHTS BEGIN TO SLOW, JERKING GRADUALLY TO A HALT.)

KARA:

The did it! The did it!
they stopped the train!

DAN:

Yay!

SCENE 13 CONTD

(SCHEMER IS HUDDLED IN THE CORNER.
HE LOOKS UP CAUTIOUSLY AND THEN
PEEPS OUT HE WINDOW)

SCHEMER:

I knew they could do it!

(THE CHILDREN WHOOP IT UP)

(STACY, BILLY, J.B. KING ENTER FROM
PLATFORM CARRYING THE WET BLANKET)

VICKIE:

(RUSHING TO HUG STACY)

You did it! You saved the
day!

KING:

(TURNING TO STACY)

This was your idea?

STACY:

(MODEST)

Well...

SCHEMER:

Of course she couldn't
have done it without me.

(KING LOOKS SURPRISED)

BILLY:

That's right. Schemer
gave her the idea...

(HE DRAPES THE WET BLANKET ON
SCHEMER)

BILLY CONTD:

... for using a wet
blanket.



SCENE 13 CONTD

(EVERYONE LAUGHS)

(THE LIGHTS COME ON)

DAN:

Yay!

KING:

Stacy Jones. You are a
hero!

KARA:

Three cheers for Stacy!

VICKIE:

Hip hip....

EVERYONE BUT STACY:

Hooray! Hip hip hooray!
Hip hip hooray!

BILLY:

Listen!

(THEY STAND SILENT)

DAN:

I don't hear anything.

(SFX: BIRDS CHIRPING)

BILLY:

Listen carefully.

KARA:

Birds.

STACY:

(POINTING TO THE WINDOW)

The sun.

(THROUGH THE WINDOW, WE CAN SEE THE
SUN SHINING IN)

SCENE 13 CONTD

SCHEMER:

At last!

(SCHEMER GOES TO THE WINDOW AND
OPENS IT)

KING:

On behalf of the Indian
Valley Railroad, I want
to commend you for your
bravery and quick
thinking. You are a true
hero and a credit to
Shining Time Station.

(HE REACHES FOR STACY'S HAND)

STACY:

Thank you Mr. King. But
truly it was a team
effort. Everyone did
their part to get us
through the storm safely.

(SCHEMER IS AT THE WINDOW)

SCHEMER:

Thank you Miss Jones.

(HE LEANS OUT AND TAKES A DEEP
BREATH OF THE FRESH AIR. EYES
CLOSED ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE)

(ANGLE ON MR. C IN THE WINDOW BOX.
HE IS IN A RAFT BUSILY BAILING
WATER OUT OF THE WINDOW BOX,
OBLIVIOUS TO SCHEMER NEARBY. HE
FILLS HIS PAIL WITH WATER AND
TOSSES THE WATER IN SCHEMER'S
DIRECTION)

SCHEMER:

Darn I was brave.

(SCHEMER TAKES ANOTHER BREATH, EYES
CLOSED. THE WATER HITS HIM SQUARELY
IN THE FACE.)

SCENE 13 CONTD

SCHEMER CONTD:

Blegh! Wha...

(SCHEMER PULLS HIS HEAD IN, SHAKING
HIS WET HAIR)

BILLY:

Schemer, you're all wet.
A real washout.

(ALL LAUGH)

FADE

CREDITS

END